

need or desire for immediate cash; and (4) inability to prepare one's own taxes due to limited language, literacy, or computer skills.

This bill takes a two-pronged approach aimed at curtailing the drain on the EITC program by first regulating income tax preparers and refund anticipation loan providers and, secondly, creating IRS-administered grant programs for free tax preparation for low-income taxpayers and to help individuals establish a bank account for the first time.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID DAVIS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to photographer David Davis and the outstanding work he has done to promote our Native American culture in Colorado. David is constantly challenging himself as an artist, and his recent project focusing on Native Americans has garnered national attention. While I would like to congratulate David on his recent accomplishment, I would also like to recognize his selflessness in donating proceeds of the project to Native Americans.

David first became interested in the Native American culture in 1993, when he did a photo shoot of a Native American wedding dress for an advertisement. Since then, he has traveled around southwestern Colorado and the neighboring states taking photographs of Native Americans against the breathtaking backgrounds of the Colorado Plateau. David made a DVD of his photographs entitled "Native Faces—Desert Light," and his work on this project will be shown at a Native American film festival in Tuba City, Arizona. Some of the proceeds from the project have been donated to endeavors encouraging Native Americans to take up photography, and his work is sold at stores on reservations.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring the selfless work of David Davis to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. He has helped to promote this historically rich culture, and has brought to light the majesty of this land and its native peoples. I wish David all the best with this project and his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, consider this scenario: "The formation of a free and democratic society is being hampered by internal and external strife. The drafting of a constitution encounters opposition and various parties within the country are struggling for power. The economy is underdeveloped and there is little order. The people are unsure of their future and this promise of democracy. It would take decades for this democracy to truly flourish and become the republic that it is today."

That's the history of America, Mr. Speaker. The people of Iraq, a year after their liberation, are facing many of the same obstacles of early Americans. However, they have accomplished more in one year than the United States accomplished in a decade—they have drafted a working constitution that guarantees freedom of religion and worship, freedom of expression, freedom to peacefully assemble and demonstrate, freedom to organize political parties, freedom to join unions and the right to equal treatment under the law. This progress is unprecedented.

365 days ago, our troops, along with other coalition forces, entered the country of Iraq to liberate a badly battered and abused population. Our troops performed with determination and tenacity: they were given their mission and performed brilliantly. Now, because of their accomplishment, 24 million people live in a country that has voiced its dedication to freedom and democracy. Unfortunately, there are those in this country that lack the same resolve to freedom and democracy. At the first sign of opposition and test of honor they run and hide behind words such as "quagmire." This wavering support is disheartening at best and it undermines the incredible accomplishments of our troops, especially those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. It also undermines the determination of the Iraqi people to establish a democracy—deeming them incapable and incompetent.

Even as we speak here today, progress is being made in Iraq. As chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee I've visited Iraq and witnessed first-hand their accomplishments. With our help, they have surpassed prewar peak electrical generation levels and are on track to be generating at 140 percent over their prewar level by June. Water facilities are currently operating at 65 percent of prewar levels, mostly due to years of neglect, electricity shortages and post-war looting of plant and emergency generators. Current projects include the rehabilitation of 15 water treatment facilities and portions of the Sweet Water Canal to Basrah. These projects will benefit over 14.5 million Iraqis and provide a future for water reliability.

One year ago this country, along with our allies, made the decision to topple a tyrannical regime, liberate a people, and help build a democracy in the heart of a terrorist breeding ground. Our troops have done, and continue to do, their part. It is time for all leaders in America to do their part: we must stand by the Iraqi people and government as they begin their long and challenging journey towards freedom. Our own past demonstrates that democracy is messy; at times there will be setbacks and frustrations, but in the end, freedom is worth every sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOAN BOWMAN, MAYOR OF LENEXA, KS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, I attended the funeral of an outstanding public servant who was taken from us too soon. Former Lenexa, KS, Mayor Joan

Bowman died on March 11 after 26 years of dedicated public service to the community that is my home.

Joan Bowman died after a long battle with cancer. This longtime community leader, volunteer and advocate for education and individuals with disabilities was elected Lenexa mayor in 1995 and 1999. She was first elected to the Lenexa City Council in 1987, the same year she was inducted into the Lenexa Volunteer Hall of Fame. Her career in public office began in 1978 as a member of the Shawnee Mission West High School Advisory Board. In 1981, she began the first of two terms on the Shawnee Mission Board of Education, where she served as board president for 2 years. In her honor, flags at Lenexa city hall were flown at half staff.

Last month, the people of Lenexa dedicated to former Mayor Bowman a 7-foot, bronze statue of Na Nex Se, the Shawnee Native American woman after whom Lenexa was named. Dedicated to Bowman for her leadership and service to our community, the statue was funded with city resources and through a local letter writing campaign, which ultimately raised \$8,000 more than was needed. I hope that Joan Bowman's legacy, as embodied in the Na Nex Se statue, will inspire future generations of Lenexans to make significant contributions to our community. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD for your review a copy of the Kansas City Star's obituary regarding this remarkable, dedicated public servant.

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 12, 2004]

FORMER LENEXA MAYOR DIES

(By Eugene Scott)

Former Lenexa Mayor Joan Bowman, who was an advocate for education and persons with disabilities in her 26 years of public service, died Thursday after battling cancer. She was 63.

Bowman was respected as a volunteer and an officeholder, and news of her battle with cancer had been widespread in recent years.

In February, city officials dedicated a statue of Na Nex Se, the Shawnee American Indian woman after whom Lenexa was named, to Bowman in honor of her service and leadership.

Bowman was elected mayor twice, in 1995 and 1999. She was elected to the city council in 1987, the same year she was inducted into the Lenexa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Current Lenexa Mayor Mike Boehm said Bowman's desire to implement projects in Lenexa's best interest greatly enhanced the city.

"Her biggest impact on Lenexa was that she took a reasonable approach. Joan would study every issue brought before her, and give it the necessary attention," he said.

Leawood Mayor Peggy Dunn worked with Bowman on the Johnson County/Wyandotte County Council of Mayors and developed a personal friendship.

"She was an outstanding leader, and a wonderful mentor to those of us who knew her," she said. "She was always ready to listen, and to give . . . wise counsel."

While Bowman formed friendships with other political leaders, Dunn said her ability to separate professional and personal relationships made her an effective leader.

"Her ability to see the big picture in every situation, to rise above personal feelings and do what was really the best thing for the greater good encouraged others to do so as well," Dunn said.

Rich Becker, Lenexa's mayor when Bowman was elected to the city council, admired her strong work ethic. "She was the toughest woman I ever met in my life," he said.